



President Barack Obama speaks to members of the National Governors Association, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, in the State Dining Room of White House in Washington.
(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)
Pagie 4

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Pentagon chief convenes counter-IS meeting, lauds strategy

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer
CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait
(AP) —

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter convened an extraordinary war council Monday on Iraq's doorstep six days after taking office, gathering military and diplomatic leaders to discuss the Obama administration's oft-criticized strategy for countering the Islamic State group.

He left suggesting the approach is mostly on track.

"The discussion indicated clearly to me that this group (the Islamic State) is hardly invincible," Carter told reporters after six hours of closed-door talks with the officials he dubbed "Team America."

He gave no indication that he that he thinks the strategy needs an overhaul.

"Our discussion this afternoon affirmed the seriousness and the complexity of the threat posed by ISIL, especially in an interconnected and networked world," he said, using an alternate acronym for the militants. "Lasting defeat of this brutal group can and will be accomplished."

Carter said the U.S.-led aerial bombing campaign in Iraq is going well, and he expressed confidence that the U.S. military is well suited to carrying out a longer-term effort to train and equip an opposition rebel force in Syria. He specified two areas for needed improvement in the overall strategy: more creative use of social media to counter ISIL's messaging campaign, and getting more out of some coalition member countries, which he did not name.

Carter was returning to Washington on Tuesday to meet with President Barack Obama.

The Army general commanding the war effort in Iraq and Syria, meanwhile, told reporters that the Islamic State fighters are "halted, on the defensive" in Iraq and facing a new counterattack by Iraqi

forces in Anbar province to retake a town the militants seized earlier this month. Lt. Gen. James L. Terry said he is confident the Iraqi push, dubbed "Lion's Revenge," will succeed in retaking the town of al-Baghdadi.

But Terry said of the Islamic State group, "No doubt, they're adaptive."

Carter said he assembled U.S. generals, diplomats and intelligence officials not just to hear the latest on battlefield progress but also to better understand the intellectual underpinnings of Obama's counter-IS strategy, including the ways military force is supposed to combine with political and economic measures to reverse the Islamic State's gains and eventually defeat it.

During a brief picture-taking session as the talks began, Carter said he needs to better understand what he called the "very complicated" problem of an Islamic extremist group "spreading echoes and reflections around the world." He added, "It is a problem that has an important military dimension, but it's not a purely military problem -- it's a politico-military problem."

Seated around a large T-shaped table were about 25 senior officials, including Gen. Lloyd Austin, head of the military's Central Command; presidential envoys John Allen and Brett McGurk; the commanders of U.S. forces in Europe and Africa, and U.S. ambassadors summoned from Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab nations with a stake in the outcome of the fight against the Islamic State.

"This is Team America," he said.

The gathering was a highly unusual way for a Pentagon chief to begin his tenure. Aides said participants were told in advance to leave their usual talking points home and be prepared for a freewheeling discussion. □



U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter delivers a speech to U.S. troops at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015. Carter gathered top U.S. military commanders and diplomats for talks in Kuwait on Monday about the battle against Islamic State, as America's military effort approaches major hurdles in both Iraq and Syria.

(AP Photo/Jonathan Ernst, Pool)



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Obama seeks governors' help to aid middle class

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Monday beseeched the nation's governors to partner with him on elements of his agenda to help the middle class in the face of congressional gridlock, saying there was room for collaboration on economic issues, health care and criminal justice reform.

"I'm in the fourth quarter of my presidency - or, as some of you might call it, the kickoff for your campaign season - but I think there's still a lot that we can get done together," Obama told the governors Monday at the White House, where they were wrapping up their winter meeting.

He said it was time to "move past some of the habits of manufactured crisis and self-inflicted wounds" that he said had been created



South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, left, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, right, talk in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, where President Barack Obama spoke to members of the National Governors Association.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

by Congress, including the looming threat of a shut-down of the Department of Homeland Security because of a dispute over Obama's recent immigration directives.

"It will have a direct impact on your economy, and it will have a direct impact on America's national security,"

"Obama said of a lapse in funding for the department, in which the staff would be furloughed or forced to work without pay.

"Their hard work helps to keep us safe, and as governors, you know that we can't afford to play politics with our national security." The president also thanked the governors from both parties who have expanded their Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Act, and made a pitch to those who have not changed their stances. "I'd urge you to consider it, because our team is prepared to work with you to make it happen," Obama said.

There is room for governors to work with the White House on elements of his agenda "even when Congress does not act or does not act fast enough," Obama said.

He cited criminal justice changes as an example, noting that in Georgia, the Republican governor, Nathan Deal, has provided judges with alternatives to mandatory minimum sentences.

Also on Monday, Obama will move to tighten regulations on investment professionals who handle retirement savings accounts, calling for new rules to protect investors from receiving conflict-ridden advice from brokers looking out for their own bottom lines. □

US seeks ruling stay on Obama immigration action

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. government asked a federal judge Monday to lift his temporary hold on President Barack Obama's action to shield millions of immigrants in America illegally from deportation. Last week, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Texas issued a preliminary injunction sought by 26 states suing to halt the executive action by Obama, who wants to spare from deportation as many as 5 million people who are in the U.S. illegally. The states, led by Texas, have argued the action is unconstitutional and would force states to invest more in law enforcement, health care and education.

The Justice Department filed a motion Monday for a stay as well as a three-page notice with Hanen, telling him it is appealing his decision to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court in New Orleans. If Hanen puts his ruling on hold during the appeal to the 5th Circuit, then Obama's immigration action would be allowed to go forward while the lawsuit proceeds through the courts.

Obama announced the executive action in November, saying lack of action by Congress forced him to make sweeping changes to immigration rules on his own. Republicans, who say Obama has overstepped his authority, are blocking funding for the Department of Homeland Security

unless Democrats agree to cancel Obama's order.

Justice Department attorneys said a stay of Hanen's ruling is necessary "to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is able to most effectively protect national security, public safety, and the integrity of the border." The 20-page motion argued that keeping the temporary hold "would also harm the interests of the public and of third parties who will be deprived of significant law enforcement and humanitarian benefits of prompt implementation" of the president's immigration action.

Government lawyers also contended Hanen lacked the authority to issue the injunction, the national ef-

fect of which is "vastly" excessive.

The injunction issued by Hanen should only focus on Texas "so that we can move forward with these executive actions in other states," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday.

The first of Obama's orders — to expand a program that protects young immigrants from deportation if they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children — had been set to take effect Feb. 18. The other major part, extending deportation protections to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years, was not expected to begin until May 19. □



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At Press Time: Impasse remains in Senate on Homeland budget bill


WASHINGTON (AP) — Sena-
 tors returned to Washington
 on Monday with little time
 and dimming prospects
 for averting a partial shut-
 down of the government
 agency tasked with keep-
 ing the U.S. border secure.
 The Homeland Security De-
 partment's \$40 billion bud-
 get is set to run out Friday
 at midnight because of
 a dispute over President
 Barack Obama's executive
 actions to limit deportation
 for millions of immigrants
 in the United States illegally.
 Republicans who control
 both houses of Congress
 believe Obama's actions
 go beyond his presidential
 authority.
 Obama warned the na-
 tion's governors at a White
 House meeting that the
 looming shutdown would
 have a direct impact on
 their states' economies, as
 well as on security through-
 out the United States.
 Most of the department's
 230,000 employees would
 have to keep working af-




Jeh Johnson, the secretary of Homeland Security, listens during a House Committee on Homeland Security in Washington. With just days remaining until funding for the Homeland Security agency runs out on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, a shutdown of the department is looking increasingly likely.
 (Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

ter the deadline, but would
 not receive pay until Con-
 gress authorizes funding.
 "These are folks who, if they
 don't have a paycheck, are
 not going to be able to
 spend that money in your
 states," the president said.
 "And as governors, you
 know that we can't afford


to play politics with our na-
 tional security."
 An evening vote was set in
 Congress to advance legis-
 lation to fund the agency,
 but senators already have
 cast three previous such
 votes and the result Mon-
 day was expected to be
 the same.
 Senate Democrats were
 likely to block considera-
 tion of a bill passed by the
 House of Representatives
 because it includes provi-
 sions overturning Obama's
 immigration actions.
 A federal judge's ruling last
 week that put Obama's
 immigration program on
 hold increased calls from
 a few Republican senators
 to pass a "clean" Home-
 land Security Bill without the
 contested language on im-
 migration.
 Some Senate Republicans
 say the immigration dis-
 pute should be resolved in
 court so the party doesn't
 get blamed for not fund-
 ing Homeland Security, but
 House Republicans said
 they had no plans to revisit
 the issue.
 The U.S. government asked
 the judge Monday to put
 his ruling on hold while it
 appeals the decision.
 Homeland Security Sec-
 retary Jeh Johnson says
 the furloughs could harm
 the U.S. response to terror-
 ism, such as the purported
 threat late Saturday by
 the East Africa-based al-
 Shabab terror group to at-
 tack Minnesota's Mall of
 America.
 Some 80 percent of Federal
 Emergency Management
 Agency workers would be
 furloughed even as that
 agency contends with
 two months of devastat-
 ing snowfall and cold from
 New England to the Moun-
 tain States.
 But some Republicans
 have argued that because
 the large majority of agen-
 cy staff would keep work-
 ing, albeit without getting
 paid, the harmful impacts
 of a shutdown were being
 exaggerated. □



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Most West Coast ports bustling again after labor deal

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

Nearly all West Coast seaports began the work week with crews hustling to load and unload cargo ships that were held up amid a months-long dispute over a new contract for dockworkers.

The exception Monday was the Port of Oakland, where problems persisted three days after negotiators for the dockworkers' union and for employers reached a tentative agreement covering all 29 West Coast ports. Those ports handle roughly one-quarter of U.S. international trade, an amount worth about \$1 trillion annually.

In Oakland, nine ships were at berth and ready for cranes to move cargo Monday, but only one was being worked due to what port spokesman Mike Zampa called a "temporary shortage of experienced crane operators." He said port officials expected experienced crane drivers to return for the night shift.

Other Oakland dock-



Container ships wait to be unloaded at the Port of Los Angeles on Monday, Feb. 23, 2015. Nearly all West Coast seaports began the week with dockworkers hustling to load and unload cargo ships that were held up amid a months-long labor-management dispute. (AP Photo/Nick Ut)

workers were still putting containers that already had been unloaded onto trucks and trains. The port handles about 10 percent of the coast's total seaborne trade.

Operations at the other West Coast ports from Seattle to Southern California appeared to be back to normal. The job

of restoring the free flow of goods will take at least two months — and more like three at the Port of Los Angeles, the nation's largest.

Put in a line, the cargo containers sitting on ships off the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach on Monday morning would stretch 731 miles. Stacked

up, they'd rise more than 300 miles — higher than the orbiting altitude of the International Space Station. There are smaller, though substantial, backups in San Francisco Bay and Washington's Puget Sound. Negotiators for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime

Association of companies that own, load and unload massive, ocean-going ships reached a tentative deal Friday night. Leaders for both sides pledged to keep labor peace on the West Coast waterfront as their respective members vote on the deal.

The union's 13,000 voting members could make their decision in April, though the timing is not set. The maritime association has not said when it expects its members to vote.

The issues in Oakland marked the second day of disruptions there.

A labor-management dispute related to work breaks escalated to the point that the port shut down Sunday. An arbitrator ordered a return to work on the night shift after finding that longshoremen took part in illegal work stoppages. Melvin Mackay, a spokesman for the local union branch that covers Oakland, did not return calls requesting comment. □

US labor chief: Unions to push on wages in 2016 campaign

BILL BARROW
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Politicians of all ideologies have failed American workers in an era of rising corporate profits and declining wages, the top U.S. labor leader said Monday, vowing to pressure candidates running for president in 2016 to address the issue. The largest U.S. association of workers is meeting in Atlanta this week to work on its strategy for the upcoming campaign. The leader of the 12.5-million member organization said higher wages can be a "unifying progressive value," but acknowledged unions

are struggling to connect with voters skeptical of the benefits of organized labor.

"The economy is nothing but a set of rules that make the winners and losers," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said. "Those rules are made by the people we elect. We should elect people who change the rules."

This week's AFL-CIO meeting comes amid a long decline in the influence of organized labor, which tends to support Democrats. According to a 2014 study from the Pew Research Center, the percentage of all American

wage and salary workers who belonged to a union declined from 20 percent in 1983 to 11 percent in 2013. The peak came in 1954, at 34.8 percent.

Trumka cited the success of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican presidential contender who curtailed bargaining rights for public employees in his state.

Walker survived a subsequent recall attempt and then won re-election, and lawmakers in Wisconsin are now pushing to pass right-to-work legislation that would limit the organizing power of private-sector unions.

Trumka said AFL-CIO plans to sponsor "wage summits" in four states that hold early presidential nominating contests: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. The organization also wants to focus on what Trumka called political "divisiveness" that he said drives many Americans to vote against their economic interests.

That approach generally aligns with a Democratic National Committee analysis, released Saturday, of the party's 2014 losses. It concluded the party has failed to communicate its core values, particularly to working-class white voters.

Trumka said labor has a "good relationship" with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the favorite for the Democratic nomination should she run as expected.

Trumka described priorities for 2016 that put his organization partly at odds with both major parties. He emphasized the AFL-CIO's opposition to President Barack Obama's effort to win "fast-track" authority to negotiate trade deals, saying the "undemocratic, unpatriotic" proposal would lead to lower wages in the U.S. because of increased overseas competition. □

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US Financial Front:

American home sales dip 4.9 percent in January

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home sales struck a snow drift in January, plunging to the slowest pace in nine months.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that sales of existing homes tumbled 4.9 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.82 million. That brings sales down to their lowest level since April 2014.

Relatively low mortgage rates and steady job growth have yet to spur more activity from buyers and sellers, raising the possibility of either a spring sales rush or a second straight year of numbness in the real estate market. Few properties are being listed for sale, would-be buyers are holding off on purchases and snowstorms are cutting into traffic at open houses.

Weak sales in 2014 had set up expectations of a strong rebound in 2015, yet signs of that resurgence have yet to appear. The addition of roughly 1 million new jobs over the past three months has failed to make much of a dent in home-buying.

Homes did sell at a rate 3.2 percent faster than January 2014, but that increase largely reflects the brutal winter weather at the beginning of last year that depressed home-buying and caused the entire U.S. economy to briefly shrink. The noticeably more robust U.S. economy coming into 2015 was supposed to buoy sales, but the market has barely stirred so far.

"The weather hit is nothing like the scale of the damage seen last winter, but we would not now be surprised to see a further decline in activity in Febru-

ary," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "The underlying trend in sales is more or less flat."

Few properties are coming onto the market. Just 4.7 months of supply were listed for sale at the end of December, compared with an average of 5.2 months during 2014, according to the Realtors.

Nor have builders ramped up construction. Housing starts slid 2 percent in January, according to a report from the Commerce Department last week.

The limited supply of homes can lift prices to higher levels, which may then lead would-be buyers to wait until they have more choices. Weekly mortgage applications fell 13.2 percent, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported last Wednesday.

Affordability has become a problem as prices have climbed at a faster clip than incomes. The national median home price rose 6.2 percent over the past 12 months to \$199,600. That has priced out many first-time buyers, who represented just 28 percent of sales compared to their historic share of 40 percent. Mother Nature is also beginning to take its toll. Nasty snowstorms in the Midwest and Northeast likely kept would-be buyers away, further crimping sales heading into March and beginning of the spring buying season.

Buyer traffic for newly built homes slowed in February, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo sentiment index. The Realtors said previously in a separate report that the number of signed contracts in December fell



This photo shows a home for sale in Charlotte, N.C. The National Association of Realtors reported on sales of existing homes in January on Monday, Feb. 23, 2015.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

3.7 percent, suggesting that sales will remain under pressure in the coming months.

Sales slid in all four major geographical regions last month: dropping 6 percent in the Northeast, 2.7 percent in the Midwest, 4.6 percent in the South and 7.1 percent in the West. Average 30-year fixed rates were 3.76 percent last week, according to the mortgage giant Freddie Mac. The average has risen from 3.59 percent at the start of February.

The current levels remain below the 4.33 percent average from a year ago, but the previous lows might keep current homeowners from upgrading since it would mean abandoning their current mortgage for a loan with possibly a higher rate and larger monthly payments. □

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Geneva, Switzerland:

Historic US-Iran nuclear deal could be taking shape

**GEORGE JAHN
BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press**

GENEVA (AP) — Edging toward a historic compromise, the U.S. and Iran reported progress Monday on a deal that would clamp down on Tehran's nuclear activities for at least 10 years but then slowly ease restrictions on programs that could be used to make atomic arms. Officials said there were still obstacles to overcome before a March 31 deadline, and any deal will face harsh opposition in both countries. It also would be sure to further strain already-tense U.S. relations with Israel, whose leaders oppose any agreement that doesn't end Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to strongly criticize the deal in an address before Congress next week.

Still, a comprehensive pact could ease 35 years of U.S.-Iranian enmity — and seems within reach for the first time in more than a decade of negotiations.

"We made progress," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said as he bade farewell to members of the American delegation at the table with Iran. More discussions between Iran and the six nations engaging it were set for next Monday, a senior U.S. official said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the sides found "a better understanding" at the negotiating table.

Western officials familiar with the talks cited movement but also described

the discussions as a moving target, meaning changes in any one area would have repercussions for other parts of the negotiation. The core idea would be to reward Iran for good behavior over the last years of any agreement, gradu-

ally lifting constraints on its



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, returns to his hotel after walking on the bank of Lake Geneva, following a bilateral meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif for a new round of nuclear talks in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Salvatore Di Nolfi)

ally lifting constraints on its uranium enrichment and slowly easing economic sanctions.

Iran says it does not want nuclear arms and needs enrichment only for energy, medical and scientific purposes, but the U.S. fears Tehran could re-engineer the program to produce the fissile core of a nuclear weapon.

The U.S. initially sought restrictions lasting up to 20 years; Iran has pushed for less than a decade. The prospective deal appears to be somewhere in the

middle. One variation being discussed would place at least a 10-year regime of strict controls on Iran's uranium enrichment. If Iran complied, the restrictions would be gradually lifted over the final five years.

However, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said last year that his country needed to increase its output equivalent to at least 190,000 of its present-day centrifuges. Under a possible agreement, Iran also would be forced to ship out most of the enriched uranium it produced or change it to a form that would be difficult to convert for weapons use. It takes about one ton of low-enriched uranium to process into a nuclear weapon, and officials said that Tehran could be restricted to an enriched stockpile of no more than about 700 pounds.

The officials represent different countries among the six world powers negotiating with Iran — the United States, Britain, China, France, Germany and Rus-

sia. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the negotiations.

Formal relations between the U.S. and Iran, severed during the Iranian revolution and hostage crisis in 1979, have progressively improved since moderate Iranian President Hassan Rouhani took office in 2013. Further reconciliation would help the West in a region where Iran holds considerable sway and the U.S. is increasingly involved in the struggle against Islamic extremists.

But even if the two sides agree to a preliminary deal in March and a follow-up pact in June, such a two-phase arrangement will face fierce criticism from Congress and Israel, both of which will argue it fails to significantly curb Tehran's nuclear weapons potential.

Israel was already weighing in. Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon warned that such a deal would represent "a great danger" to the Western world and said it "will allow Iran to become a nuclear threshold state."

In Washington, President Barack Obama has been trying to keep Congress from passing new sanctions against Iran that he says could scuttle further diplomacy and rekindle the threat of a new Mideast war. Iranian hardliners fearing a sellout of their country's nuclear program may also pressure Rouhani, although he appears secure as long as a deal is supported by Khamenei. □



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Greece readies new list of bailout reforms for rescue

D. GATOPOULOS

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Caught between its own defiant campaign pledges and pressure from creditors, Greece's left-wing government will deliver a list of reforms Tuesday to debt inspectors for final approval of extended rescue loans, officials said.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was already facing dissent within his left-wing Syriza party over claims it is backtracking on its recent election-winning promises to ease budget cuts for the recession-battered Greeks. Two officials linked to the government said the list will be sent to Brussels early Tuesday and be reviewed at a teleconference of the 19 eurozone finance ministers later in the day.

They spoke on condition of anonymity either because he wasn't authorized to make comments or because of the sensitivity of the negotiations.

Greece and bailout creditors have been in a standoff since Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' left-wing Syriza party won general elections last month on a pledge to tear up bailout agreements and seek a massive write off of bailout debts, totaling 240 billion euros (\$271 billion). But they reached a tentative agreement Friday to extend the country's rescue loan program by four months, avoiding the risk of a Greek default and exit from the euro currency.

The government official said reforms would focus on curbing tax evasion, corruption, smuggling and excessive bureaucracy while also addressing poverty caused by a six-year recession.

A Syriza official in Brussels said that "immediate priority" would be given to the settling of overdue debts, the protection of people with mortgage arrears as well as the ending of foreclosures of first residencies.

"Creditors will be skeptical. These are notoriously difficult reforms and, in the case of the latter, usually cost money," said Megan Greene, chief economist at Manulife Asset Management.

"It will be difficult for the Greek government to provide concrete measures for achieving these goals, and they will almost certainly be unable to achieve much before the next round of negotiations in June."

Tsipras is also facing pressure within his party. Several prominent Syriza members have publicly said the party should honor its campaign promises.

Environment Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis, an outspoken bailout critic, lashed lead bailout lender Germany for insisting that Athens stick with austerity measures — an effort he insisted would fail.

"Red lines in negotiations cannot be crossed — that's why they are red," he told the weekly Real News. "If the Germans choose to push the issue to a rift, they will bring catastrophic consequences on themselves."

The dissent could complicate approval of the overhauled reforms in parliament, with Syriza lacking a majority and relying on right-wing coalition partner, the Independent Greeks. □



Ukrainian troops ride on self-propelled artillery near Artemivsk, eastern Ukraine, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015. A Ukrainian military spokesman says continuing attacks from rebels are delaying Ukrainian forces' pullback of heavy weapons from the front line in the country's east.

(AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Blaming rebel attacks:

Ukraine delays heavy weapons pullback

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) —

Ukraine delayed a promised pullback of heavy weapons from the front line Monday, blaming continuing attacks from separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Under a peace agreement reached Feb. 12, both sides are to withdraw their heavy weapons 25 to 70 kilometers (16 to 44 miles) back to create a buffer zone. Ukrainian officials said Sunday they were planning to start.

However, military spokesman Lt. Col. Anatoliy Stelmakh told reporters on Monday the pullback will not begin until rebel attacks stop entirely, in line with a cease-fire that was supposed to begin Feb. 15. Stelmakh said there were two rebel artillery attacks overnight and although this is significantly fewer than in previous days, "as long as firing on Ukrainian military positions contin-

ues, it's not possible to talk about a pullback."

Col. Valentyn Fedichev, deputy commander of the military operation against the rebels, said there had been 27 attacks against Ukrainian forces over the past 24 hours, which he said was lower than in recent days. He also indicated that no pullback was imminent.

"If the enemies continue to use their own heavy weapons, it is clear that Ukraine will continue to counteract these operations," he said. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's observer mission in Ukraine is supposed to be monitoring the weapons withdrawal. Its spokesman, Michael Bocuirkiw, told the AP on Monday the monitors had seen heavy weapons movements by both sides but could not tell whether weapons were being pulled back or just being redeployed.

Under the peace agree-

ment that was worked out after all-night talks between Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France on Feb. 12, the weapons pullback is to commence when shooting ends and be completed within two weeks.

An Associated Press reporter on Monday saw Ukrainian forces moving back from around the town of Debaltseve, which was captured last week by rebel forces after a fierce weeklong siege.

Both Stelmakh and Fedichev said rebels are still trying to overrun a Ukrainian government position in the village of Shyrokyne, on the outskirts of the strategic port city of Mariupol.

Rebels began moving toward Mariupol last August, raising concerns they were seeking to seize the city in order to establish a land corridor between mainland Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimean peninsula. □



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Families of 3 missing UK girls urge 'Please come home!'

SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Turkish police searched Monday for three missing British schoolgirls believed to be headed to Syria to join the Islamic State extremist group as their frightened families issued urgent pleas begging the girls to return home.

The girls, said to be "straight-A students" from the same east London school, disappeared last Tuesday without leaving any messages. Authorities said they boarded a Turkish Airlines plane to Istanbul. The relatives of Shamima Begum and Amira Abase, both 15, and Kadiza Sultana, 16, broke down in tears as they spoke of their fears in televised interviews on British TV.

"We miss you. We cannot



This image combo shows Kadiza Sultana, 16, left, Shamima Begum, 15, center and Amira Abase, 15, going through security at Gatwick airport, before they caught their flight to Turkey on Tuesday Feb 17, 2015. The three teenage girls left the country in a suspected bid to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State extremist group. (AP Photo/Metropolitan Police)

stop crying," said Abase Hussen, Amira's father, clutching a teddy bear Amira gave to her mother on Mother's Day. "Please think twice. Don't go to Syria."

The case has captured wide attention in Britain, where authorities say at

least 500 people have left for Syria to join extremists and fear they pose a terrorism threat when they return.

Authorities have been criticized after it emerged that, before the girls disappeared, Begum had online contact with a fourth girl,

Aqsa Mahmood, who left for Syria in 2013 to become a "jihadi bride."

Aamer Anwar, the lawyer for Mahmood's family, argued that the police failed to engage with communities.

"I cannot see why this isn't considered a child protection issue," he said. "These young girls have been groomed online. They have been trafficked."

The girls took advantage of lax regulations governing international air travel for unaccompanied minors, which makes it relatively easy for teens to travel without parental permission.

Many major airlines place no restrictions on children over 12. The Turkish Airlines website states written permission is needed for children between seven and 12 to travel unaccompanied, but does not mention rules for children over 12.

European Union officials have discussed tighten-

ing these rules in recent months.

In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman said Monday that Turkish and British authorities were working diligently to locate the girls.

"They are working closely to find them ... and to find out what motivated them," spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said, calling for closer cooperation to prevent foreign fighters from using Turkish territory to join the Islamic State group.

"Turkey cannot struggle against foreign fighters on its own," Kalin said. "Why aren't they being stopped at the border? If there was information on the possibility that they may be joining terrorist activities, you should be conducting your efforts to prevent it at your border gates."

The families said there were no signs that the girls were interested in extremism or had planned to go abroad. □



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Heavy clashes between Kurds and IS in northeastern Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Heavy clashes raged in northeastern Syria on Monday as Kurdish fighters and Islamic State militants battled for control of a string of villages near the Iraqi and Turkish borders.

The Kurds have long been one of the most effective foes of the Islamic State group, a reputation they burnished in recent months by repelling a months-long IS assault against the town of Kobani on the Turkish frontier. The U.S.-led coalition carried out hundreds of airstrikes that helped the Kurds break the IS siege in January.

Monday's fighting focused in Hassakeh province in the extreme northeast of Syria,

where IS militants took at least one village near the small town of Tal Tamr, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees activist collective said. Tal Tamr is some 85 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the provincial capital of Qamishli. The SANA state news agency said the extremists attacked seven villages in all, forcing hundreds of people to flee.

The IS gains came a day after Kurdish militiamen from the People's Protection Units, or YPG, captured around 20 villages southeast of Qamishli in a new offensive against the Islamic State group. □

Venezuelan leader seeks to rally poor with mayor's arrest

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro appears to have chosen his latest foe carefully.

While the arrest of Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma provoked spontaneous demonstrations and drew international condemnation, it also reminded many Venezuelans of what they most disliked about the politicians who preceded Maduro and his late mentor Hugo Chavez at a time when the socialist government faces an economic crisis that has sent the president's popularity plummeting.

Over the past year, Maduro's embattled government has arrested several opposition politicians and business executives, accusing them of plotting to destabilize the government.

None, however, fits the role of boogeyman quite like Ledezma, who plunged into politics in his 20s and has amassed a bevy of political liabilities over the years.

Chief among them is his close relationship with disgraced former President Carlos Andres Perez.

Perez rode an oil boom in the late 1970s that boosted Venezuela's influence on

the world stage, only to see a second stint as president a decade later end in impeachment and exile after a series of Washington-backed economic reforms triggered unprecedented unrest.

Ledezma was Perez's hand-picked governor of the now-defunct federal district during the 1989 riots known as the Caracazo. Hundreds were killed as police fired indiscriminately on Venezuelans who took to the streets to protest an unpopular gasoline hike and other austerity measures.

Maduro refers to Ledezma as the "vampire," and has seized on his relationship with Perez to accuse the 59-year-old politician of being a relic of the so-called Fourth Republic, a term created by Chavez to describe a sham, elite-dominated democracy that excluded the poor from decision-making for decades before Chavez was elected president in 1999 and began moving the country to the left.

Indeed, even while a younger generation of opposition leaders distanced itself from the corruption of the past two-party system, Ledezma has remained loyal to his strongman mentor, serving as a pallbearer in his funeral in Miami in

2010. His office is chock-full of photos of the two.

"I'm not happy he's in jail, but at least finally justice is being done," said Henry Echenique, a 55-year-old taxi driver whose friends lost children during the unrest.

ing depends almost entirely, has further rattled officials ahead of legislative elections set for later this year that, if the opposition wins, would likely pave the way for a recall referendum.

But as hard as life has be-

him, the obstacles placed in the way of the opposition have proven just as formidable.

Only days after Ledezma took office as mayor in 2008, Chavez's government booted him out of the colonial-era city hall down-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro greets supporters during an event at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro appears to have chosen his latest foe carefully with the arrest of Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

In recent months, economic problems such as widespread shortages and 68 percent inflation have mounted and support for Maduro has slid to a dangerously low 22 percent. The crash in oil prices, on which government spend-

come under Maduro, polls show many poor Venezuelans remain loyal to the revolution started by Chavez and are at best indifferent to an opposition they fear could turn back the clock and slash social spending. If Ledezma's past haunts

town and gutted his powers by giving a rival entity responsibility for schools, policing and even tax collection. He responded with a hunger strike lasting six days that cemented his status as one of Chavez's fiercest critics. □



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Head of Cuba's Ladies in White to submit leadership to vote

HAVANA (AP) — Berta Soler, one of Cuba's best-known dissidents as head of the Ladies in White, said Sunday she'll submit her leadership of the divided opposition group to a vote by members living inside the country.

Soler's announcement came after members of the Ladies in White living outside Cuba called on her to resign after a video emerged showing members booing and repudiating another dissident in December in the group's Havana headquarters.

The group's estimated 270 members in Cuba will vote on her leadership on March 16, she said. "The Ladies active in Cuba are going to be the ones who decide if I will remain at the head of the movement."



Cuban dissident Berta Soler at the end of an interview with The Associated Press in the Casa de America, in Madrid, Spain. Soler, one of Cuba's best-known dissidents as head of the Ladies in White opposition group, said Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, she'll submit her leadership to a vote by members of the organization inside the country.
(AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

She spoke before about 50 of the women, all dressed in white, who were holding their traditional Sunday march outside the St. Rita Cath-

olic Church in Havana. The women and about 30 activists changed the habitual route of their march. An Associated Press reporter saw them take a tunnel on a Havana avenue but didn't see them emerge from it.

Soler and other members of the group did not answer telephone calls seeking clarification of what had happened or if members had been detained.

Cuba's government has at various times temporarily detained members of the group and sent government supporters to shout slogans at their rallies.

A group of women formed the opposition organization more than a decade ago to press for the release of imprisoned family members. □

Bahamas cites poor decisions as cause of plane crash

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Investigators looking into a small plane crash that killed a prominent Christian minister and eight others last year have found it was likely caused by bad decisions by the crew during stormy weather, the islands' civil aviation department said Sunday. A Learjet carrying the Rev. Myles Munroe and members of his Ba-

hamas Faith Ministries crashed Nov. 9 after striking a shipping crane as it attempted to land in Grand Bahama. The crash killed everyone on board, including Munroe's wife.

On Sunday, the islands' civil aviation department said its accident investigation unit had concluded its probe into the crash. In a final report, investigators determined

that poor decision-making by the crew as they attempted to descend below the authorized altitude without being able to see the runway area was the probable cause. The jet was trying to land during heavy rain and reduced visibility as a storm front passed over the area. During a second attempt at landing at the Grand Bahama International Airport, the

crew struck a crane at a shipyard during a "go-around procedure," according to the Sunday statement from the civil aviation department. The right outboard wing, landing gear and right wing fuel tank separated from the plane on impact, according to the department. The aircraft spun out of control for roughly 1,578 feet (526 yards) before slamming


into a recycling facility. Nobody on the ground was hurt.

Munroe was a best-selling author, motivational speaker and influential Christian pastor who frequently spoke on television and gave sermons around the world. At the time of the crash, he and the others were flying to a global leadership forum that he had organized in the Bahamas. □

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An Explosion of Creativity by Luis Mesquita on Display at The Kitchen Table by White



--Local artist showcases art alongside chef Urvin's culinary masterpieces on Eagle Beach.

EAGLE BEACH - Every month, The Kitchen Table by White has the privilege to turn its surroundings into an art gallery and host a local artist's work. Luis Mesquita is originally from Uruguay, but has been living on Aruba for the past 7 years. Luis found he was truly inspired by the natural beauty and spiritual stimulation he experienced from the moment he set foot on Aruba. "It was like an explosion of all the creativity in my soul that had been repressed until then", he

expresses. He studies the driftwood he finds washed up on shore, and in a short time, the soul of the wood speaks to him. The results are some fantastical creatures, merging real life denizens of the deep with his lively imagination.



This stunning exposition of sculptures and painting will be on display through the end of March at The Kitchen Table by White, located at Blue Residences on the outskirts of Eagle Beach. Chef Urvin, who is known for elevating local dishes to haute cuisine, displays his very own culinary masterpieces at the restaurant alongside the art on the walls. The Kitchen Table has been met with overwhelming critical acclaim since opening 8 months ago by locals, tourists and his peers. Amongst its distinguished patrons were Chef Francois Geurds from the two star Michelin restaurant FG in Rotterdam and Chef Lucas Rive of



his namesake restaurant in the Dutch port town of Hoorn, also a Michelin star restaurant. Recently, The Kitchen Table by White was named number #1 for Caribbean cuisine by USA Today's Aruba expert Lilliana Erasmus.

The 8-course prix fixe menu at The Kitchen Table by White changes monthly, and for March, they are presenting a retrospect of those dishes their patrons found particularly captivating. Chef Urvin has selected one special item from each of the monthly

menus, beginning with "Lama," a seafood starter and also everyone's favorite, Keshi Yena, with The Kitchen Table's special twist. Seating at Kitchen Table is extremely limited. Only 14 reservations accepted nightly and four held for spur-of-the-moment gourmands. Reserve early online via reservations@ktbywhite.com or call 528-7015.

For more information on Luis Mesquita's art at The Kitchen Table please contact charruarte@hotmail.com. □





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Comedians from the Tonight Show, Letterman Show, and 'Louie' Performing at the Aruba Marriott Resort!



--Top American comedians perform in Ray Ellin's hilarious show at the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino every night until March 10th,

PALM BEACH - "Aruba Ray's Comedy Show," has been in full swing the past few weeks. The shows have been fantastic, and the upcoming lineup looks like another great one. The shows are at 830pm, every night, in the Amsterdam Ballroom at the Marriott Resort, down the hall from their casino. The doors open at 8pm. Tickets are available at www.ArubaComedy.com. You can also call 520-6606 or 749-4363 for more information.

Timeshare owner Lynn Higgins has been to the comedy show four different times. "We have been coming to Aruba for sixteen years. This is without a doubt the best thing to come to the island in that time. It's our favorite activity at night! We are very happy the Marriott has these shows."

This is a great way to spend the night out. It is the best

show in Aruba - the comedians are all truly some of the best from New York. It is a relaxed, intimate setting at the Marriott.

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Robert Kelly from the sitcom 'Louie,' his new Comedy Central special, and also HBO.

Pete Correale will be on as well. You have seen Pete on the David Letterman Show, the Tonight Show,



and Comedy Central. Ray Ellin will host the shows. Known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba, Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past three years, and produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows on the island. He is considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC.



Ray has appeared on many television programs; he is the host of the new Gong Show Live, a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He also hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy, distributed by 20th Century Fox. It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve. Doors open at 8pm. The showroom is intimate - it is suggested you purchase tickets in advance at www.ArubaComedy.com.

You can also purchase tickets (subject to availability) at the Amsterdam Ballroom showroom door at 7:30pm.

The tickets are \$34. And

each Comedy Ticket gives every audience member \$10 in FREE Slot Play in the Stellaris Casino at the Marriott (ID required!). And each Comedy Ticket will also provide a 20% discount to the Aruba La Vista buffet.

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Wim Arns, a middle-aged Dutch man, got severely burned on his hands and face when cigar ashes drifted down into a bucket of paraffin oil he was holding, causing a spontaneous explosion. Wim: "After being treated in the Burn Centre in Rotterdam, the doctors referred me to a skin therapist in my hometown to continue the aftercare of the burn scars. My skin felt really tight and itchy, and I wanted a cream to help with this. That's when the therapist recommended *Alhydran*. Already within an hour of applying the cream, I felt my skin had more space to breathe and the itching stopped. My face has healed completely, the skin has total flexibility again, and the same goes for my hands. Therapy certainly contributed to this, but I attribute the flexibility of the skin and eradication of the itching to the use of *Alhydran*."

Alhydran through the eyes of a professional

Rina Rijkenberg is a certified skin therapist in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands. As a specialist, she has different skin products to choose from, but *Alhydran* is her #1 solution. Rina: "A lot of complaints are that the skin feels dry, itchy, red, sensitive, and painful, which are symptoms frequently associated with burn victims, lymph edema patients, and people who have undergone radiation therapy or have general scar tissue, acne, or excessive hair. All this can be caused by a deregulation in the moisture levels of the skin. The secret to *Alhydran* is that it regulates the moisture levels of the skin continuously in an unprecedented way. A very high dosage of pure Aloe Vera gel delivers the hydration, and pure Vitamin C, Vitamin E, and Jojoba oil prolong the activity. Patients can actually see and feel their skin healing."

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(Palm beach)
- **Aruba Aloe Cruise Terminal**
(APA Cruise Terminal)

- **Aruba Aloe Divi Links**
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- **Aruba Aloe Tamarijn**
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PALM BEACH – “We can’t live without coming to Aruba at least once a year,” say Larry and Sandy from New York. “And since we have discovered Fishes & More, we include at least one visit to this terrific restaurant.” The couple, on the island to celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary, is happy to have escaped

the chilling winter storms and freezing temperatures in the US. They are enjoying life, especially life on Aruba. The two came to know Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden via word of mouth and terrific press in the Aruba today Newspaper. Since then they come back every chance



they get to eat a whole red snapper of another famous fish dish. At Fishes & More

they’re happy to see such friendly faces and get such good reviews. The feeling

is mutual, we think, as Larry and Sandy said: “The staff is great as well!” □



Florida Panthers' Erik Gudbranson (44) goes high along the glass as he checks Pittsburgh Penguins' Steve Downie (23) in the first period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in Pittsburgh. Associated Press

NHL Capsules Bruins rout 'Hawks 6-2, end 6-game losing streak

The Associated Press
CHICAGO (AP) — CHI-
CAGO (AP) — Patrice Bergeron opened the scoring with his 200th goal, then added two assists in Boston's four-goal second period as the Bruins ended a season-high six-game losing streak with a 6-2 rout of the Chicago Blackhawks on Sunday. Reilly Smith had a goal and assist for the Bruins, who were 0-4-2 during the slide, their longest winless stretch since 2010. Loui Eriksson, Milan Lucic, Gregory Campbell and Dougie Hamilton also scored for Boston, which pulled away in the finale of five-game road trip. Jonathan Toews and Bryan Bickell scored for the Blackhawks, who have lost three straight (0-2-1) for the first time since last March. The six goals against Chicago matched a season high and the four against the Blackhawks in the second set a season mark for a period.

Continued on Page 22



Alex Rodriguez shows up early to spring training

Page 19

New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez waves as he arrives at the Yankees' minor league complex Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, in Tampa, Fla. Associated Press

James Hahn finds no substitute for desire, hard work

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The next two months suddenly are loaded with perks James Hahn never imagined.

His victory Sunday at Riviera gives him a two-year exemption on a PGA Tour that took him a decade to reach. He qualified for two World Golf Championships. He's going to the Masters for the first time. What's more, his wife is expecting their first child in three weeks.

But like so many other players who toiled like Hahn, winning is sweeter when looking back, not forward.

"Came from a small town. Didn't do well in college. Was never an All-American. Sold shoes for a living," he said, reciting a journey that sounded more back roads than Autobahn. "And then just one day, the putts started going in and I started playing a little better. Won a couple of golf tournaments, and now I'm here." If only it were that simple.

Hahn, born in South Korea and raised in the Bay Area, walked through the locker room at Riviera and saw portraits of the past champions. It's an impressive collection, ranging from Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, from Johnny Miller to Tom



James Hahn holds the winner's trophy after his one-stroke victory on the third playoff hole against two other players in the final round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015.

Associated Press

Watson, from Fred Couples to Mickelson.

None of them ever worked at Nordstrom.

"I sold a lot of shoes," Hahn said with a smile, the silver trophy from the Northern Trust Open at his side. "I was pretty good at it."

Golf was a little harder.

He tried the mini-tours. He played one year in South Korea, two more in Canada, trying to find his way. What he remembers distinctly is a tournament in Edmonton, Alberta, where he had about \$200 in his

wallet and was asking himself if it was worth the effort. And that's when he questioned his own effort.

"I'm sitting there in my room," he said. "I've got to borrow money to pay for my caddie fee. It was a little embarrassing. I was going to borrow money from my parents to get a flight home. And I'm sitting there on the computer going on Craigslist and I start looking for jobs. It kind of hit me like, 'Hey, you have an opportunity to do something with your life.' And I was just wasting it, hanging out with friends, partying on the weekends. I wasn't putting in the time."

Perhaps it was that honesty that cleared his mind and allowed him to finish in the top 10 that week. He recalls making around \$3,000, which felt closer to \$1 million. When he returned to Edmonton a year later, he won.

"I thought I was a millionaire," he said. "I was like, 'Dinner's on me, guys. Got \$1,000 in my bank account. Don't worry about.' Seeing exactly a year ago where I was and how much work I put into it, and to be able to play golf at that point ... that was a big, big goal of mine, just to keep playing golf."

He has more in the bank

account now.

Hahn rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the third extra hole at Riviera — the par-3 14th — to beat Dustin Johnson and Paul Casey in a playoff. Hideki Matsuyama, Jordan Spieth, Keegan Bradley and Sergio Garcia all missed the playoff by a shot.

He earned \$1.26 million, and when he was asked if it felt like a million, Hahn quickly corrected him.

"No, it is \$1 million. It's not like \$1 million," he replied with that easy smile.

He spent Wednesday afternoon on the practice range trying to hit 60-yard wedges into small nets because it reminded him of his days as a kid. That came in handy with a flop shot over the back bunker on No. 10 that set up a birdie and allowed him to stay in the playoff with Johnson.

And the rain that hit Riviera over the final two hours? More memories of his road to winning.

"I love the rain, absolutely love it," he said. "Not to be spiritual about it, but I feel like it's God's way of just washing the streets and making everything fresh again. Because that's what happens in the Bay Area when we get a lot of rain. The streets are clean, spotless.□"



Lydia Ko of New Zealand poses with her winners trophy after she won the Women's Australian Open Golf tournament at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015.

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— New Zealand's Lydia Ko made her second start as world No. 1 a winning one, shooting a final-round 2-under 71 for a two-stroke victory over South Korea's Amy Yang in the Women's

Australian Open.

The South Korean-born Ko finished with a 72-hole total of 9-under 283 on the composite course at Royal Melbourne. Yang shot a final-round 72.

Ariya Jutanugarn of Thai-

Lydia Ko wins Women's Australian Open by 2 strokes

land, who was tied with Ko after three rounds in the LPGA, European Tour and Australian Ladies event, shot a 76 to finish third, five strokes behind Ko.

Defending champion Karrie Webb, who won her fifth Australian Open last year at nearby Victoria Golf Club, shot 71 and finished 10 strokes behind.

As the leading groups were making the turn, play was suspended for about an hour due to nearby thunderstorms and the threat of lightning.

While Ko had just dropped a shot on the eighth, Yang had birdied the ninth hole

and was ready to putt for an eagle on 10 when the siren to stop play sounded. Yang settled for a birdie after her ball circled the hole but failed to drop.

It gave Yang the lead but it didn't last long with Ko adding two birdies on the back nine.

"I think that break was really good for me," Ko said. "I had some lunch and got my stuff together there and I played much better after that."

Ko's accomplishments also include being the youngest golfer to win a professional event after capturing the New South Wales Open

when she was 14.

"I've always played well in Australia, so it's always cool coming back here," she said. "It's great. I played pretty solid. I think that's a really important thing and to win on such an amazing golf course."

South Korean-born American Jenny Shin birdied the last two holes for a four-under 69, the low round of the day, to move into a tie for fourth with first-round leader Ilhee Lee, seven behind Ko.

Lee closed with 71 but a second round of 82 all but ended her chance for victory.□

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Alex Rodriguez reports to Yankees following drug suspension

By MARK DITLER
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- Alex Rodriguez reported to the New York Yankees following a season-long suspension, arriving three days ahead of schedule.

Wearing a green University of Miami sweat suit, Rodriguez arrived shortly before 1 p.m. Monday in a white SUV at the team's minor league complex, a short distance from Steinbrenner Field. New York's position players start workouts Thursday. Suspended for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez apologized to team officials during a meeting on Feb. 10 and to fans in a statement last week. The three-time AL MVP has not spoken publicly about his actions that led to the suspension. Rodriguez, who turns 40 in July, has not played a full season since 2007 because the suspension, operations on both hips and other in-



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez works out at the Yankees minor league facility before reporting for spring training baseball, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, in Tampa, Fla. The official full squad workouts begin Feb. 26.

Associated Press

juries. He admitted in 2009 that he used performance-enhancing drugs from

2001-03 while with Texas. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig suspended Rodriguez

for 211 games in August 2013, citing conduct from 2010-12 uncovered dur-

ing MLB's investigation of the Biogenesis of America clinic, which was based in Coral Gables, Florida, not far from Rodriguez's home. Arbitrator Fredric Horowitz reduced the penalty to the 2014 season, finding "clear and convincing evidence" Rodriguez used three banned substances and twice tried to obstruct baseball's drug investigation. The suspension cost Rodriguez \$22.13 million of his \$25 million salary last year. Rodriguez also sued Major League Baseball, the players' association and the Yankees' team physician, then dropped the cases.

He is owed \$61 million in the final three seasons of his \$275 million, 10-year contract. A marketing agreement signed at the time of his contract provides for five \$6 million bonuses he could earn for historic achievements; the Yankees told him they don't plan to pay those. □

NHL's Montador offered years ago to donate brain

TORONTO (AP) — Before concussions were a serious topic in hockey, Steve Montador knew all about the consequences of head injuries. Five years ago, while still playing in the NHL, Montador committed to donating his brain to research.

Dr. Charles Tator of the University of Toronto told that story at Montador's memorial service Saturday in Mississauga, Ontario.

"He didn't know when it was going to be, but when it did happen he wanted to donate his brain," former Calgary Flames teammate and current assistant general manager Craig

Conroy said. "That just tells you what kind of person he was. Obviously it's way too early, but if it helps someone else, that's what he was always about."

Montador died Feb. 15 at age 35, more than a year after lingering concussion symptoms forced him to leave his team in Croatia. The defenseman didn't play professional hockey again.

Many of his friends and former teammates didn't know about his plans to donate his brain. The decision didn't surprise those close to him.

"He was very intellectual

himself and looking for answers and trying to figure out what made things work and how to improve things," retired enforcer George Parros said.

"And if he could donate his brain to figure out how to best treat concussions and things like that, then he would certainly do it."

Brain injuries have been the subject of much discussion lately, especially after the 2011 death of enforcer Derek Boogaard. Research determined Boogaard, who died of an accidental drug overdose, had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, a degenerative brain condition. □



In this March 13, 2010, file photo, Buffalo Sabres defenseman Steve Montador (4) skates with the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Detroit Red Wings in Detroit.

Associated Press

Defending champ Federer wins, Gulbis loses again

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Defending champion Roger Federer had little trouble bypassing Mikhail Youzhny 6-3, 6-1 in the first round at the Dubai Tennis Championships on Monday.

Federer was playing his first match since his third round exit to Andreas Seppi at the Australian Open last month. "Best of three in a quick court sometimes you just can run away with the score, so that's where maybe a bad five to ten minutes can cost you the match," Federer said. "I think it was close in that first set. I think we were both trying to find our range."

The 33-year-old Federer, needed just 56 minutes to get through to the second round, and remains undefeated in 16 matches against Youzhny.

The 55th-ranked Youzhny, who has been a finalist in Dubai twice, stayed level



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Mikhail Youzhny of Russia during the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 23, 2015.

Associated Press

with Federer through the first six games of the match. Federer took control of the match when he broke serve

on a fourth break point in the seventh game of the first set when Youzhny hit a backhand long.

Meanwhile, fifth-seeded Ernests Gulbis extended his winless streak this year to five following his defeat to

Denis Istomin 7-5, 6-2 in the first round.

The 14th-ranked Gulbis, who was ranked inside the top 10 last year after reaching the French Open semifinals, led 4-1 in the opening set before falling apart.

"I'm not in good form right now," Gulbis said. "I'm not feeling my shots at all. I have no timing. In practice I have been playing worse than in the match."

Also, Joao Sousa of Portugal posted a 6-1, 6-2 win over wildcard James McGee, only the fourth Irishman to play in an ATP main draw event since 1990. □



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Joey Logano gives Roger Penske another Daytona 500 victory



Joey Logano, right, celebrates with team owner Roger Penske, left, after winning the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

-- Joey Logano had a shot to win the NASCAR championship last year. A flawed late pit stop cost him the chance, and he went into the offseason determined to get back into contention again.

A win in the season-opening Daytona 500 on Sunday gave Logano the head start he wanted. His victory earned him an automatic berth into the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, and put him at the front of the field

after a week dominated by the biggest names in NASCAR.

He was motivated by a sign in the Team Penske gymnasium that reads, "Effort equals results." That one phrase inspired Logano to put in countless hours watching video of past superspeedway races with his crew chief and his spotter.

"We did everything we possibly could to prepare ourselves for this race," Logano said. "It's so cool to see that phrase come to life: Effort equals results." More than two years af-

ter nearly washing out of one of NASCAR's top rides, Logano won the biggest race of his career by outlasting the field over a white-knuckle final 50 miles of three-wide racing.

The victory, which came under caution as a late wreck froze the field and allowed Logano to coast across the finish line, was another nod to the job Roger Penske has done with the driver he hired for the start of the 2013 season. Nicknamed "Sliced Bread" when he broke into the Sprint Cup Series at 18 because so many predicted him to be the next big thing, Logano found himself searching for a new job after four underwhelming seasons at Joe Gibbs Racing.

Penske snatched him up, jump-started his career and got his second Daytona 500 victory via Logano. One of the most respected team owners in motorsports, "The Captain" also has a record 15 Indianapolis 500 wins.

Logano reflected after the win on the end of his run

with Gibbs and the uncertainty he had about his future at just 22 years old.

"Some of the emotions you go through, you start to think, 'Man, am I going to have a job next year?' That's kind of hard as a race car driver," Logano said. "I poured all my eggs in one basket. You don't know what's going to happen."

"Who would ever guess three years down the road we'd be sitting here saying

we're Daytona 500 champions? That's crazy. Life is a roller-coaster."

Logano became the second-youngest Daytona 500 winner behind Trevor Bayne, who was 20 when he pulled off an upset in 2011. The win ended a week that began with all the attention on Jeff Gordon in his final Daytona 500, the suspension of Kurt Busch and the injury to Kyle Busch in Saturday's Xfinity Series race. □

Associated Press



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SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20



DAKOTA JOHNSON | JAMIE DORNAN
FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:50 | 9:35
SAT, SUN & HOL 4:10 | 6:50 | 9:35
MON-THURS 5:00 | 7:45
FRI 5:00 | 7:45 | 10:20
SAT SAT 2:15 | 5:00 | 7:45 | 10:20
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:00 | 7:45



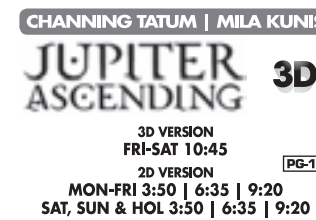
CHRIS EVANS | MICHELLE MONAGHAN
PLAYING IT COOL

MON-THURS 9:10
FRI-SAT 9:10 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 9:10



ANTONIO BANDERAS | TOM KENNY
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SPONGE OUT OF WATER

3D VERSION
MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 5:00 | 7:05
SAT 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05
SUN & HOL 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05



CHANNING TATUM | MILA KUNIS
JUPITER ASCENDING 3D

3D VERSION
FRI-SAT 10:45
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

KEVIN HART | JOSH GAD
Wedding Ringer
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
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NBA Capsules

Cavs crush Knicks as Smith, Shumpert return to N.Y.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — LeBron James and Kyrie Irving each scored 18 points, and J.R. Smith had 17 and hooked up with Iman Shumpert on a dazzling dunk in their return to New York as the Cleveland Cavaliers crushed the Knicks 101-83 on Sunday.

James moved past Allen Iverson into 22nd place on the career scoring list, and added seven rebounds and seven assists. Kevin Love finished with 16 points and 16 boards, combining with James and Irving to outscore the inept Knicks in the first half.

Cleveland won for the 16th time in 18 games and got good performances from Smith and Shumpert, who were acquired by the Cavs on Jan. 5 and have helped solidify a team that was still below .500 shortly after the trade. The Cavaliers are 35-22 and have been untouchable since returning from the All-Star break, hammering Washington by 38 on Friday night and leading this one by 30.

Shumpert came off the bench for four points, five rebounds and seven assists, one of them when



Cleveland Cavaliers' J.R. Smith, right, defends New York Knicks' Cleanthony Early during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

Smith jumped to catch his lob pass and slammed it down with his back to the basket. The two guards hugged, and Smith jumped into James' arms heading

back to the bench. Langston Galloway scored 13 points for the Knicks. They have lost seven straight to drop to 10-45. PACERS 104, WARRIORS 98

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Rodney Stuckey scored 30 points to help Indiana beat NBA-leading Golden State. The Warriors played without star guard Stephen Curry for the first time this season. He sat out because of soreness in his right ankle. Showing little signs of the left ankle sprain he suffered in a victory at Philadelphia on Friday night, Stuckey made a cutting layup off a pass from David West to give Indiana a 91-90 lead with 3:58 left.

C.J. Miles added 13 points. He made a 3-pointer from the right wing with 26.5 seconds to make it 101-97. Klay Thompson scored 39 points for Golden State. Andre Iguodala added 14. LAKERS 118, CELTICS 111 LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jeremy Lin had a season-high 25 points as Los Angeles ended a seven-game losing streak with an overtime victory over Boston. Wesley Johnson added a season-high 22 and Nick Young finished with 19 points, helping the Lakers win for only the second time in their last 18 games. The other victory came in double overtime at home against Chicago on Jan.

29. They haven't won a game in regulation since Jan. 9, when they beat Orlando 101-84 at Staples Center.

Isaiah Thomas, making his Celtics debut after Thursday's trade from Phoenix, scored 21 points in 25 minutes before he was ejected with 5:03 left in regulation and Boston trailing 91-87. Celtics guard Avery Bradley got eight of his 20 points in the final 27 seconds of the fourth quarter, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer that sent the game to OT.

THUNDER 119, NUGGETS 94 OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook had 21 points and a career-high 17 assists as Oklahoma City beat Denver without Kevin Durant.

Durant was out after a procedure Sunday to replace a screw that was causing soreness in his surgically repaired right foot. The reigning NBA MVP is expected to return this season.

Enes Kanter had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder, who have won six straight and eight of nine. Serge Ibaka added 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. □



New York Rangers right wing Mats Zuccarello, right, of Norway, makes contact with Columbus Blue Jackets center Marko Dano in the first period of an NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

the win, despite taking two penalties late in the first period.

FLYERS 3, CAPITALS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Del Zotto scored late in the third period to lift Philadelphia over Washington.

Claude Giroux and Wayne Simmonds also had goals for Philadelphia.

Tom Wilson and Joel Ward scored for Washington, whose four-game winning streak ended. The Capitals lost for just the third time in 11 games.

PREDATORS 2, SABRES 1, SO BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Rookie forward Filip Forsberg scored the decisive goal in the fourth round of a shootout to lead Nashville over Buffalo.

The Predators overcame a 1-0 deficit on Mike Ribeiro's power-play goal with 4:17 left in the third period. Backup goalie Carter Hutton stopped 16 shots through overtime and allowed just one shootout goal.

The NHL-leading Predators (40-13-7) went 1-1-1 during a three-game road swing and avoided their first three-game skid of the season. Nashville was playing

its third game in four nights. Tyler Ennis scored in regulation and the shootout for the last-place Sabres (17-38-5), who dropped to 3-19-2 in their past 24. The loss spoiled a splendid effort by goalie Michal Neuvirth, who finished with 37 saves.

AVALANCHE 5, LIGHTNING 4

DENVER (AP) — Teenage center Nathan MacKinnon had the first hat trick of his young career, and Matt Duchene also scored in Colorado's victory over Tampa Bay.

Alex Tanguay had a goal and Semyon Varlamov made 28 saves for the Avalanche, who have won four of five. Ryan O'Reilly added two assists.

MacKinnon, at 19 years and 5 months, became the youngest player in Avalanche history to score three goals in a game. It

was Colorado's first hat trick since Duchene did it Nov. 4, 2011, at Dallas, a span of 258 games.

Tyler Johnson had a goal and two assists for Tampa Bay, and Nikita Kucherov added a goal and an assist. Ondrej Palat and Brett Connolly also scored.

MacKinnon ended a 13-game goal drought. His previous goal came at Tampa Bay on Jan. 15, when he scored with 6.8 seconds left to send the game into overtime.

WILD 6, STARS 2

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Zach Parise scored twice as Minnesota set a team record with six goals in the third period against Dallas. The Wild are an NHL-best 11-1-1 since the All-Star break, outscoring the opposition 40-19 during that stretch to get into playoff position for the first time since Nov. 24. □

NHL Capsules

Continued from Page 27

Boston's Tuukka Rask made 26 saves and coasted to



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Google teams up with 3 wireless carriers to combat Apple Pay

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Aiming to undercut Apple's latest hit service, Google is teaming up with three major U.S. wireless carriers to prod more people into using its mobile wallet.

The counterattack announced Monday is just the latest example of how the competition between Google Inc. and Apple Inc. is extending beyond the technology industry's traditional boundaries. Besides payments, Silicon Valley's two richest companies are expanding into fields such as home appliances and cars to increase their power and profits.

Google's latest volley calls for its payment service to be built into Android smartphones sold by AT&T Inc., Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile USA later this year. Smartphone owners currently have to download the service, called Google Wallet, and install the app



In this Jan. 17, 2012 file photo, a person tries a smartphone loaded with Google Wallet at the National Retail Federation in New York.

Associated Press

on their phone if they want to use it to buy something instead of pulling out cash or a credit card.

Apple's rival service, Apple Pay, already comes embedded in the latest versions of the company's mobile software.

Besides trying to make it

more convenient to use Wallet, Google also is hoping to improve the nearly 4-year-old service. Toward that end, Google Inc. is buying some mobile payment technology and patents from Softcard, a 5-year-old venture owned by the wireless carriers. Fi-

nancial terms weren't disclosed. Although Google and the wireless carriers got a head start with their digital wallets, the concept hadn't gained much traction until Apple Pay debuted last fall.

The service has become more popular than Apple expected, according to a recent presentation by CEO Tim Cook.

Just three months after Apple Pay's November debut, Cook said the service accounted for two out of every three dollars spent across the three major U.S. card networks, when no card was used. About 2,000 banks and credit unions have agreed to offer Apple Pay to its customers. Apple hasn't said how many merchants are set up to handle its mobile payment services.

If Apple builds on that early momentum, the Cupertino, California, company could become the leader in what is expected to be a booming market. Nearly 16 million U.S. consumers spent about \$3.5 billion on tap-and-pay services last year, according to the re-

search firm eMarketer. By 2018, eMarketer predicts those figures will rise to 57 million U.S. consumers spending about \$118 billion.

Companies that provide mobile wallets make money by collecting processing fees from merchants and banks.

Samsung Electronics, another major smartphone maker, may be ready to join the fray after buying a mobile payment startup called LoopPay. That deal, announced last week, fueled speculation that Samsung will include a digital wallet on its next phone.

Apple Pay's popularity probably helped forge the unlikely alliance between Google and the wireless carriers. Google traditionally has had a prickly relationship with the carriers, largely because it doesn't believe enough has been done to upgrade wireless networks and make them cheaper so more people can spend more time online. Media reports say Google is considering selling its own wireless plans to consumers. □

Apple to set up high-tech data hubs in Northern Europe

HELSINKI (AP) — Apple is investing 1.7 billion euros (\$1.92 billion) in high-tech data centers in Denmark and Ireland that will be powered by renewable energy, in its largest such project in Europe to date, the company said Monday.

The hubs, to begin operations in 2017, will power data for Apple Inc.'s online services, including iTunes Store, App Store, iMessage, Maps and Siri voice services.

Apple said it has increased operations in Europe, spending more than 7.8 billion euros on European companies and suppliers last year and supporting some 670,000 jobs in the region. Its own employees grew by 2,000 and number 18,300 people in 19 European countries.

The technology giant joins Microsoft, Google and Facebook in building data centers in northern Europe, where the colder climate helps save on equipment cooling costs. Apple CEO Tim Cook described the centers as "some of our most advanced green building designs yet." They will use renewable energy, including wind power.

In Ireland, Apple will recover land previously used for growing and harvesting non-native trees and restore native trees to a local forest, providing an outdoor education site for local schools and a walking trail.

The Danish center will be located next to one of the country's largest electrical substations, designed to capture excess heat from equipment in the data hub and conduct it into the district heating system to warm homes in the area.

The data centers will be based in central Denmark's Jutland and Athenry, County Galway, in Ireland. □

Honda to replace its CEO amid air bag crisis, sales drop

E. KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Honda Motor Co. — hurt by falling sales and embroiled in a crisis over defective air bags — is replacing its CEO.

The Japanese automaker said Monday that Takano-bu Ito, its president and chief executive officer since 2009, will step aside

in June and be succeeded by longtime executive Takahiro Hachigo.

The unexpected decision follows the recalls of more 6.2 million Honda vehicles in the U.S. — and millions of others elsewhere — equipped with air bags made by Japan's Takata Corp. The air bags have inflators that can explode, expelling shards of metal

and plastic. At least six deaths and 64 injuries have been linked to the problem worldwide.

At a press conference Monday, the 61-year-old Ito said it was his own decision to step down. He has been at Honda since 1978, when he joined the company as a chassis engineer. "I believe Honda needs to become one strong team

in order to overcome challenges and the team requires a new, youthful leadership," Ito said, according to a transcript provided by Honda. Hachigo is 55. Other automakers use the Takata air bags, but Honda has the most exposure and is spending heavily on the recalls. The company has lowered its full-year profit forecast to \$4.6 billion from

\$4.8 billion.

Honda is also facing civil penalties and lawsuits over the issue. In January, the U.S. fined the company \$70 million, which was the largest civil penalty levied against an automaker, for not reporting to regulators some 1,729 complaints that its vehicles caused deaths and injuries and for not reporting warranty claims. □

Stocks edge mostly lower, pulling Dow back from record



Frank O'Connell, left, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Feb. 23, 2015. The slump in crude oil prices and disappointing U.S. home sales data helped nudge stocks mostly lower on Monday, pulling the market back from an all-time high reached last week. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

The slump in crude oil prices and disappointing U.S. home sales data helped nudge stocks mostly lower on Monday, pulling the market back from an all-time high reached last

week.

The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index spent much of the day hovering slightly below their most-recent highs. But the Nasdaq composite mounted a late-afternoon comeback

that extended its recent win streak for the ninth day in a row.

Oil drilling companies and homebuilders notched broad declines, while traders bid up shares in utilities stocks.

Investors were looking

ahead to the start of a two-day round of Congressional testimony by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen. The remarks could provide insight into when the central bank will begin raising its key interest rate from near zero.

"The markets are in a holding pattern," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer of Wells Fargo Private Bank. "We'll have some very interesting information coming up from Janet Yellen tomorrow and Wednesday, so the markets are looking at that very closely."

The Dow ended down 23.60 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,116.84. The S&P 500 fell 0.64 points, or 0.03 percent, to 2,109.66. The Nasdaq gained 5.01 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,960.97. The index, which has yet to reclaim its record high from the dot-com era, is now within 87 points of that March 2000 peak.

The three stock indexes are up for the year.

Stocks started off the day

basically flat as investors weighed developments in Greece and falling oil prices.

Greece's new government and its creditors reached an agreement over the weekend that staved off the threat of a Greek bankruptcy and an exit from the euro. Athens was expected to send creditors a list of reforms tied to the four-month bailout pact early Tuesday.

The price of oil fell for the fourth day in a row as the return of a Libyan oil field raised expectations for more oil supply. Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.36 to close at \$49.45 a barrel in New York.

That helped drag down shares in several offshore oil drilling and oilfield services companies.

Transocean fell 75 cents, or 4.4 percent, to \$16.26, while Ensco shed \$1.11, or 3.7 percent, to \$28.65. Nabors Industries fell the most among stocks in the S&P 500, losing 67 cents, or 5 percent, to \$12.85. □

A Dish Network founder will return to head operations

EMILY STEEL
© 2015 New York Times

Charlie Ergen, a founder of Dish Network, is taking back the reins at the satellite provider as its competitive landscape is poised for big changes, with a series of megadeals and shifts in how people watch television.

Dish said Monday that Joe Clayton, its chief executive, would retire at the end of March after a 42-year career in consumer electronics. Ergen, who helped

found the company more than three decades ago and holds the chairman title, will return to his post as chief executive.

Clayton is the latest in a string of top executives who have failed to stay long at Dish. Carl Vogel was president from 2006 to 2008, and before that Michael Neuman was a top executive at the satellite company EchoStar, which operated Dish.

"There has just been a revolving door in and out,"

said Craig Moffett, an analyst with MoffettNathanson Research. "It is nothing more than a reflection of how difficult it has been for outsiders to work productively with Charlie Ergen."

Ergen, who also is chairman of EchoStar, stepped down from his chief executive role at Dish in June 2011 to focus on long-term business strategy. At that time, Clayton became chief and steered the company through the start of its controversial Hopper service,

which allows for automatic commercial skipping, as well as its Sling TV product, which offers streaming television for \$20 a month.

"Over the last four years, Joe's leadership has been instrumental to Dish as we have worked to engineer a fundamental transformation of our business," Ergen said in a statement. "He has set the stage for what will become a new company, and with that he has prepared a new class of management to address

the adventures coming our way."

Ergen is assuming control of the company as its rivals are awaiting for regulatory approval of two deals that would reshape the country's television and broadband markets. In July, Dish urged regulators to block the proposed \$45 billion merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable and said that a proposed \$48.5 billion deal between AT&T and DirecTV also posed competitive threats. □

A Gun on Every Corner



GAIL COLLINS
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Earlier this month - right between Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day - Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced a bill that would allow people from states with lax gun laws to carry their concealed weapons all around the country.

The goal, Cornyn said in a news release, is to treat local gun permits "like drivers' licenses."

"This operates more or less like a driver's license," he told a reporter for The Hill. "So, for example, if you have a driver's license in Texas, you can drive in New York, in Utah, and other places subject to the laws in those states."

This is perfectly reasonable, except for the part about gun permits being anything whatsoever like drivers' licenses. If a citizen from Mississippi shows his driver's license to someone in Connecticut, the Connecticut person has good reason to presume that the licensee can, um, drive. It's not a perfect system - witness the fact that there are many, many licensed drivers in America who have successfully parallel parked only one time in their entire life. But, still, no matter what state it comes from, a driver's license generally signifies a certain level of accomplishment when it comes to the basics of stopping, starting and steering. On the other hand, a permit to carry a concealed weapon from Mississippi is concrete proof of the owner's ability to fill out an application. In Virginia, you can take an online course. You can get a permit from Florida without ever living in Florida, although you definitely do have to send \$112 to the state Department of Agriculture.

In some states, you can be pretty certain that anyone with the legal right to carry a concealed weapon has been checked out carefully. In others, not so much. In 2007, the Sun Sentinel in Florida found that in a six-month period, more than 1,400 people who had pleaded guilty or no contest to felonies had been awarded concealed carry permits, along with 216 people with outstanding warrants, 28 people with active domestic violence injunctions against them, and six registered sex offenders.

The Cornyn bill would set a national bar at the lowest denominator.

"The situation in Florida is dire

enough on its own. But this law would present a danger to the rest of us because of Florida's abhorrently low standards," said Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "Think about this in terms of states' rights."

You'd think that states' rights would be a winning argument. However, as with so many, many things in this world, states' rights is a theory that people only like when it's going to get them something they already want.

In many crowded cities, gun safety means there's almost nobody carrying but the cops. But it's impossible to keep that kind of order when people are roaming the streets waving out-of-town gun permits, which local police frequently have no way to verify.

"It's a nightmare for New York law enforcement," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "In 20 states you can have a repeated history of mental health police visits and you can get a gun. You can have a domestic violence record. In many states, people subject to emergency orders of protection can be allowed to carry."

Cornyn's bill has been the top priority of groups like the National Rifle Association for years. That is, in part, because their base is irritated about not being able to drive around the country with a handgun in the glove compartment.

However, I suspect another part of the equation is that the gun lobby is running out of causes to rally the troops. Some states have already pretty much legalized everything. Once you've made it OK to carry a gun onto a playground, you've just about come to the end of the road. The NRA doesn't want to recruit members by arguing for Texans' right to wave a pistol around the small appliance department at Target. It wants a big, meaty challenge - like fighting for looser gun regulation in states where the populace doesn't want looser gun regulation.

Nobody doubts that the House of Representatives would pass a bill like Cornyn's. (Really, just call them; they'll come in and do it before dinner tonight.) The Senate has been more resistant, but, in 2013, the same proposal came within three votes of passage. And this is not an issue where minds are changed by an invigorating debate.

"You say: 'Look, maybe this works in the rural parts of your state but it doesn't work in Times Square,'" said Schumer. "They're not even open to the argument."

Now, with the new Republican majority, it'll be extremely hard to keep a bill from being sent to the president. He could always veto it. Unless, of course, it was tied to some crucial, desperately needed measure.

"This is awful, awful, awful," said Schumer.

Maybe our best hope is that Congress will do what it does best and fail to pass any legislation whatsoever for the rest of the year. □



The Cost of a Decline in Unions



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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Like many Americans, I've been wary of labor unions.

Full-time union stagehands at Carnegie Hall earning more than \$400,000 a year? A union hailing its defense of a New York teacher who smelled of alcohol and passed out in class, with even the principal unable to rouse her? A police union in New York City that has a tantrum and goes on virtual strike? More broadly, I disdained unions as bringing corruption, nepotism and rigid work rules to the labor market, impeding the economic growth that ultimately makes a country strong.

I was wrong.

The abuses are real. But, as unions wane in American life, it's also increasingly clear that they were doing a lot of good in sustaining middle class life - especially the private-sector unions that are now dwindling.

Most studies suggest that about one-fifth of the increase in economic inequality in America among men in recent decades is the result of the decline in unions. It may be more: A study in the American Sociological Review, using the broadest methodology, estimates that the decline of unions may account for one-third of the rise of inequality among men.

"To understand the rising inequality, you have to understand the devastation in the labor movement," says Jake

Rosenfeld, a labor expert at the University of Washington and the author of "What Unions No Longer Do."

Take construction workers. A full-time construction worker earns about \$10,000 less per year now than in 1973, in today's dollars, according to Rosenfeld. One reason is probably that the proportion who are unionized has fallen in that period from more than 40 percent to just 14 percent.

"All the focus on labor's flaws can distract us from the bigger picture," Rosenfeld writes. "For generations now the labor movement has stood as the most prominent and effective voice for economic justice."

I'm as appalled as anyone by silly work rules and \$400,000 stagehands, or teachers' unions shielding the incompetent. But unions also lobby for programs like universal prekindergarten that help create broad-based prosperity. They are pushing for a higher national minimum wage, even though that would directly benefit mostly non-unionized workers.

I've also changed my mind because, in recent years, the worst abuses by far haven't been in the union shop but in the corporate suite. One of the things you learn as a journalist is that when there's no accountability, we humans are capable of tremendous avarice and vengality. That's true of union bosses - and of corporate tycoons. Unions, even flawed ones, can provide checks and balances for flawed corporations.

Many Americans think unions drag down the economy overall, but scholars disagree. American auto unions are often mentioned, but Germany's car workers have a strong union, and so do Toyota's in Japan and Kia's in South Korea.

In Germany, the average autoworker earns about \$67 per hour in salary and benefits, compared with \$34 in the United States. Yet Germany's car companies in 2010 produced more than twice as many vehicles as American companies did, and they were highly profitable. It's

too glib to say that the problem in the U.S. sector was just unions. Or look at American history. The peak years for unions were the 1940s and '50s, which were also some of the fastest-growing years for the United States ever - and with broadly shared prosperity. Historically, the periods when union membership were highest were those when inequality was least.

Richard B. Freeman, a Harvard labor expert, notes that unions sometimes bring important benefits to industry: They can improve morale, reduce turnover and provide a channel to suggest productivity improvements. Experts disagree about how this all balances out, but it's clear that it's not a major drag.

"If you're looking for big negatives, everybody knows they don't exist," Freeman said.

Joseph Stiglitz notes in his book "The Price of Inequality" that when unions were strong in America, productivity and real hourly compensation moved together in manufacturing. But after 1980 (and especially after 2000) the link seemed to break and real wages stagnated.

It may be that as unions weakened, executives sometimes grabbed the gains from productivity. Perhaps that helps explain why chief executives at big companies earned, on average, 20 times as much as the typical worker in 1965, and 296 times as much in 2013, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Lawrence F. Katz, a Harvard labor economist, raises concerns about some aspects of public-sector unions, but he says that in the private sector (where only 7 percent of workers are now unionized): "I think we've gone too far in de-unionization."

He's right. This isn't something you often hear a columnist say, but I'll say it again: I was wrong. At least in the private sector, we should strengthen unions, not try to eviscerate them.

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/Nick-Kristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7			3	4				8
6		1				3		9
				7				
		9						2
1				8				6
3					1			
			5					
9		2				7		3
8				9	1			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

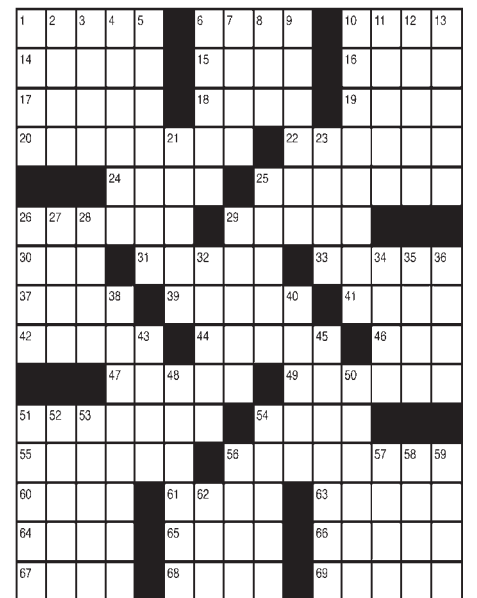
3	4	9	5	6	8	1	7	2
6	8	1	2	7	9	4	5	3
7	2	5	4	3	1	8	6	9
9	3	6	1	8	5	2	4	7
1	7	4	9	2	6	5	3	8
8	5	2	3	4	7	9	1	6
4	9	7	8	5	3	6	2	1
5	6	8	7	1	2	3	9	4
2	1	3	6	9	4	7	8	5

ACROSS

- 1 Intelligent
6 Keep ___ on; watch closely
10 Strike with an open hand
14 External
15 Follow orders
16 Singer Perry ___
17 Island greeting
18 Abound
19 Smell
20 Fixed
22 Irish accent
24 Close angrily
25 Hangs around
26 Prepared
potatoes, often
29 Actress Berry
30 Opening trio
31 Track events
33 Build
37 Messy person
39 Rump ___; cut of beef
41 Store event
42 Arrange
44 Influence; pull
46 Source of light and heat
47 Wall recesses
49 Gave an exam to
51 ___ Ann; classic little girl's doll
54 "All roads lead to ___"
55 Blazing
56 Rather lilac in color
60 Newborn colt
61 Ignore intentionally
63 Shun a big wedding
64 Fuss & bother
65 ___ as a boil
66 Septic tank alternative
67 One-dish meal
68 Grows gray
69 Exchange

DOWN

- 1 Fly high
2 Stubborn animal
3 Sitting upon
4 Discuss again
5 Mobile home
6 Tribal pole
7 Not up yet
8 Stinging insect
9 Status ___; sign of prestige
10 Children's vehicles
11 BPOE hall
12 Louis L'___; western writer
13 ___ over; studies intently
21 Role on "M*A*S*H"
23 Make angry
25 Cowboy's rope
26 Church service
27 Qualified
28 Glasgow fellow
29 Cures
32 Annoyingly confident
34 Vane direction
35 Helpful hint
36 Take care of
38 Home style
40 Private teacher



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/9/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

GUMS	CHAFE	UTAH
UPON	RIDER	MAGI
LOVE	ELMER	PLOD
PREEMPT	BESIEGE	
	RUE	OLDER
OARED	RYE	TEACH
SLED	BUS	MUSCLE
CAB	RAT	TRAP
MAE		
AMELIA	EAT	HERD
ROLES	ARM	MASKS
	NERDS	PUB
PROGRAM	MAGICAL	
RENT	CIGAR	TAPE
EACH	ERASE	AGES
PREY	RESTS	TEST

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- 43 "The Road Not Taken" or "Paul Revere's Ride"
45 Violent storm
48 Ukraine seaport
50 eBay lister
51 Pool toys
52 Under way
53 Air freshening spray
54 Hillbillies
56 Unsullied
57 Cedar Rapids' state
58 Ran fast
59 In this place
62 Holiday drink

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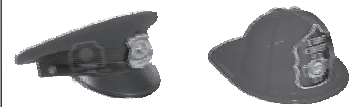
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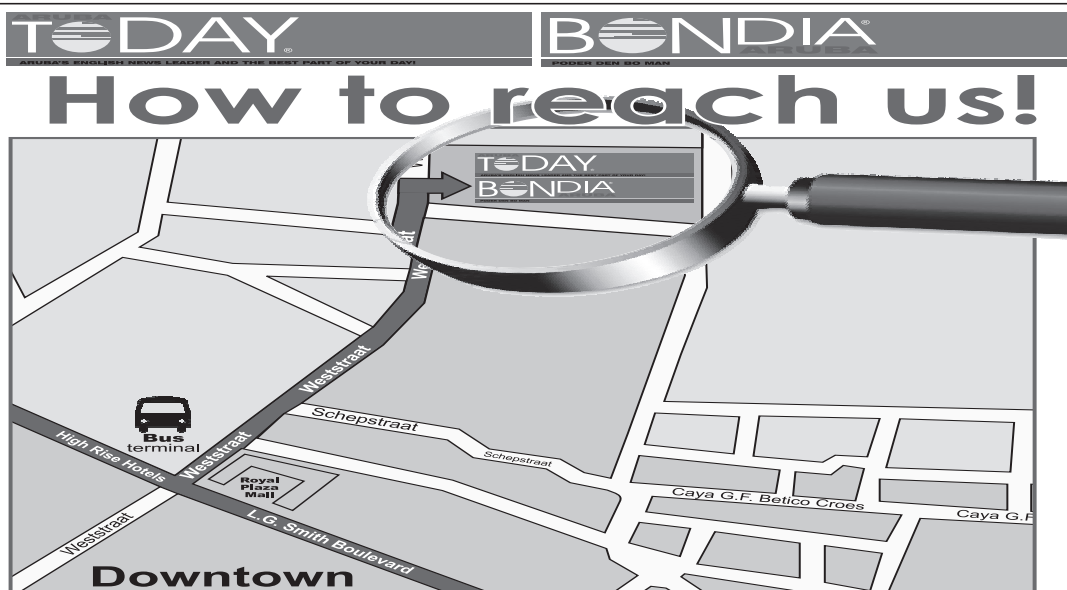
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Filthy India air cutting 660 million lives short by 3 years

KATY DAIGLE

AP Environment Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's filthy air is cutting 660 million lives short by about three years, while nearly all of the country's 1.2 billion citizens are breathing in harmful pollution levels, according to research published Saturday.

The new study by a team of environmental economists at U.S. universities highlights just how extensive India's air problems have become after years of pursuing an all-growth agenda with little regard for the environment. While New Delhi last year earned the dubious title of being the world's most polluted city, the problem extends nationwide, with 13 Indian cities now on the World Health Organization's list of the 20 most polluted.

That pollution burden is estimated to be costing more than half the population at least 3.2 years of their lives, according to the study led by Michael Greenstone of the University of Chicago and involving economists from Harvard and Yale universities. The most polluted regions, falling generally in northern India, are also



Traffic moves at dusk in Mumbai, India, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015. India's filthy air is cutting 660 million lives short by about three years, according to research published Saturday that underlines the hidden costs of the country's heavy reliance on fossil fuels to power its economic growth with little regard for the environment.

Associated Press

among India's most populous.

"The extent of the problem is actually much larger than what we normally understand," said one of the study's co-authors, Anant Sudarshan, the India director of the Energy Policy Institute of Chicago. "We think of it as an urban problem, but the rural dimension has been ignored."

Added up, those lost years come to a staggering 2.1 billion for the entire nation. While "the conventional definition of growth has ignored the health consequences of air pollution," Greenstone said in a statement, "this study demonstrates that air pollution retards growth by causing people to die prematurely."

For the study, published in *Economic & Political Weekly*, the authors borrowed from their previous work in China, where they determined life expectancy dropped by three years for every 100 micrograms of fine particulate matter, called PM2.5, above safe levels. PM2.5 is of especially great health concern because, with the particles having diameters no greater than 2.5 micrometers, they are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs.

The authors note, however, that their estimations may be too conservative

because they're based in part on 2012 satellite data that tend to underestimate PM2.5 levels.

India has a sparse system for monitoring air quality, with sensors installed in only a few cities and almost unheard of in the countryside. Yet rural air pollution remains high thanks to industrial plants, poor fuel standards, extensive garbage burning and a heavy reliance on diesel for electricity generation in areas not connected with the grid. Wind patterns also push the pollution onto the plains below the Himalayan mountain range. India sets permissible PM2.5 levels at 40 micrograms per cubic meter, twice the WHO's safe level. Still, the study says, 99.5 percent of the population is living with air pollution levels above the WHO's limit.

India had developed extreme air pollution while relying on burning fossil fuels to grow its economy and pull hundreds of millions of

people up from poverty. More than 300 million Indians still have no access to electricity, with at least twice that number living on less than \$2 a day.

While India has pledged to grow its clean energy sector, with huge boosts for solar and wind power, it has also committed to tripling its coal-fired electricity capacity to 450 gigawatts by 2030. Yet there are still no regulations for pollutants like sulfur dioxide or mercury emissions, while fuel standards remain far below Western norms and existing regulations are often ignored.

To meet its goal for coal-fired electricity, the Power Ministry says the country will double coal production to 1 billion tons within five years, after already approving dozens of new coal plants. That will have predictable consequences for the country's already-filthy air, experts say. The coal expansion plans through 2030 will at least double sulphur dioxide levels, along with those of nitrogen oxide and lung-clogging particulate matter, according to a study published in December by independent air quality research group Urban Emissions and the Mumbai-based nonprofit Conservation Action Trust.

Sarath Guttikunda of Urban Emissions, who was not involved in the study published Saturday, called it a solid effort to quantify some of the economic costs of pollution given "what information is available." "Everything comes down to a lack of monitoring data in India," he said. "If you don't have enough monitoring information, you don't know how much is coming out in the first place." □

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Life's a 'Complicated Game' for James McMurtry's characters

STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

For the sharply drawn characters portrayed on "Complicated Game," life is an uphill battle, even in a fishing boat.

James McMurtry's first release in six years is peopled with struggling crabbers, farmers, hunters and Long Islanders.

The album title — also the name of McMurtry's new label — sums up their situations, and his eye for detail makes their stories fascinating, whether the topic is a relationship in

need of repair, self-inflicted wounds or caring for cows. Taut lyrics are nothing new for McMurtry, but he has switched up the sonics a bit, setting aside his electric guitar for more varied arrangements.

"Forgotten Coast" would play in a tiki bar; "Ain't Got a Place" is framed with two drummers; and "She Loves Me" includes finger-snapping and doo-wop backing vocals.

Not that McMurtry's going soft; his lyrics make nearly every song seem like the blues. □

Suzan-Lori Parks' trilogy wins Kennedy Prize for Drama

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Suzan-Lori Parks' historical trilogy set during the Civil War has won a theater award honoring the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, one of the largest prizes given for dramatic writing.

Parks' "Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)" traces the journey of a slave named Hero, his wife, Penny, and the best friend he betrayed, Homer. Spanning a total of three hours, the plays premiered last fall at the Public Theater to largely rave reviews. It is the initial trio in a planned nine-play cycle.

The Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History honors a new play or musical that explores the United States' past and deals with "great issues of our day." Given every year through Columbia University, it comes with \$100,000.

The winning play Monday beat out four other finalists: Robert Schenkkan's "The Great Society," Marcus Gardley's "The House That Will Not Stand," and two by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins — "Appropriate" and "An Octoroon."

The prize was established by Kennedy's sister Ambassador Jean Kennedy



In a June 10, 2012 file photo, playwright and screenwriter Suzan-Lori Parks arrives at the 66th Annual Tony Awards, in New York.

Associated Press

Smith in consultation with playwright Tony Kushner. It is given every Feb. 22, the anniversary of the late senator's birth. □

Disney animators win Oscar 2 years in a row

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Walt Disney Co. proved Sunday that its power doesn't only come from Pixar.

For the second year in a row, Disney Animation won an Academy Award for best animated feature, as "Big Hero 6" followed up last year's "Frozen" win. The studio's "Feast" also won for best animated short. Neither film is connected to the company's Pixar unit, which Disney bought in 2006 for \$7.4 billion in stock. Since then, the Disney Pixar combo had scooped up most animated feature Oscars (Paramount's "Rango" won in 2011) with blockbusters including "Finding Nemo," "Toy Story 3" and "Brave." Pixar didn't release a film in 2014.

"Big Hero 6," is Disney's first animated film to take advantage of the company's 2009 acquisition of Marvel. Based on a Marvel Comic, "Big Hero 6" explores the friendship that develops between a science-geek teenager and an inflatable robot. The win shows that Disney has "deepened its bench" with the Marvel deal and 2012 acquisition of Star Wars owner Lucasfilm, said Seth Shapiro, a professor at the University of Southern California's



This file image released by Disney shows animated characters Hiro Hamada, voiced by Ryan Potter, right, and Baymax, voiced by Scott Adsit, in a scene from "Big Hero 6." For the second year in a row, Disney Animation won an Oscar for best animated feature, as "Big Hero 6" followed up last year's "Frozen" win.

Associated Press

School of Cinematic Arts. "Those are game changers, so the win is not so much a sign necessarily of Pixar weakening," he said. "Big Hero 6" might not have the fame of "Frozen," but it has done very well in theaters. It opened in November and in just two months was the 10th top grossing film in North America for 2014 with \$201.5 million. The Oscar win will have a positive effect on future earnings power, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, although the effect is difficult to quantify. It will probably boost sales internationally, where "Big Hero 6" is still generating millions in theaters. And

likely spur video and rental revenue, if audiences who haven't seen the film now decide to see it or previous viewers decide they want a repeat viewing.

In general, studios get roughly half of the theatrical box office after splitting revenue with theaters, he said.

"No matter what, the Oscar win for "Big Hero 6" brings enormous cachet and prestige to the title and to Disney and will live on with the film as parts of its legacy forever," he added. "Not only that, the Oscar will now become a very effective part of any marketing campaign for the film."

Animation was the bright

spot on Sunday for Walt Disney Co. Other Disney properties, including musical "Into the Woods," Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Maleficent" were nominated in some categories but did not win. Meanwhile, Disney Pixar will be back in action soon: "Inside Out" and "The Good Dinosaur" will hit theaters later this year. A sequel to "Finding Nemo," called "Finding Dory," is due in 2016 and in 2017 the unit plans to release "Toy Story 4," directed by original "Toy Story" director John Lasseter.

Shares of Burbank, California-based Disney rose 55 cents to \$105.10 in afternoon trading. □

Book Review: Lippman deals with parenthood in 'Hush Hush'

OLINE H. COGDILL
Associated Press

Laura Lippman's novels about Baltimore private investigator Tess Monaghan have never followed the predictable mode. Instead, the series about this sometimes cranky, perceptive young woman has afforded Lippman a way of looking at what motivates people and how each person's actions touch us in some way.

Lippman recently has been producing critically acclaimed stand-alone novels. But "Hush Hush" marks a most welcome return to Tess following a three-year absence, proving the novelist's capacity for involving storytelling knows no limits.

Parenthood — specifically motherhood, but also fatherhood — imbues the emotional plot of "Hush Hush" and makes this one of Lippman's finest novels. Parents who are calm, concerned and cheerful — as well as frustrated, fixated and furious — show that child rearing is fraught with land mines.

Tess and her new partner, former cop Sandy Sanchez ("After I'm Gone"), are hired to assess the security of wealthy Melisandre Harris Dawes. □

After the Oscars, diversity remains a topic of discussion

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What was missing from the Academy Awards turned out to be the issue that could not be ignored on the night trophies were handed out. The lack of non-white contenders for major acting awards this year became a focus on the day Oscar nominations were announced. Hollywood's commitment to reflecting the nation's diversity, and its sensitivity to how these issues are perceived, could not be missed on Sunday's show — from the opening joke on.

BEST AND WHITEST=

Host Neil Patrick Harris put it right on the table. "Tonight, we honor Hollywood's best and whitest — excuse me, brightest," he said.

It drew a knowing laugh, and no small amount of parsing.

Was Harris tweaking Hollywood for an embarrassing shortcoming? Or was he making fun of the people who have raised it as an issue of concern?

Obviously, the Oscars are an entertainment program and hosts are expected to make jokes, said Eric Haywood, a writer on Fox's hit drama "Empire." Yet jokes can also make people feel that their concerns are not being taken seriously, he said.

"As it stands, the joke is likely



Common, left, and John Legend pose in the press room with the award for best original song in a feature film for "Glory" from "Selma" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

to be reduced to a meme, which the Academy is in no way obligated to address and can easily dismiss," said Robert Jones, a Brooklyn writer and creator of the social justice blog, Son of Baldwin. "It is, after all, just a joke, right?"

"SELMA" STAR=

Another knowing line from Harris came when he praised actor David Oyelowo, who played Martin Luther King Jr. in the movie "Selma" but was passed over for an acting nomination. Harris asked Oyelowo to stand and the audience applauded.

"Oh, sure," Harris said. "Now you like him."

Oyelowo was arguably involved in the emotional high point of the show. The movie's anthem, "Glory," by Common and John Legend, won the Oscar for best song shortly after the two musicians performed it. A camera cut to Oyelowo as the song was being sung and his face was stained with tears.

BOYCOTT=

Haywood saw references to Oscar moments on Twitter Sunday night but had no personal knowledge of them. He wasn't watching.

Being in the entertainment business, he usually tunes in. This year, he participated in a boycott of the Oscars ceremony by some black viewers that was organized through the Twitter hashtag #OscarsSoWhite.

That hashtag appears to have been started by a friend of Haywood's, Washington lawyer April Reign, according to Twitter, and was the gathering place for a steady stream of commentary on Hollywood's lack of diversity. There have been some 140,000 mentions of the hashtag since the day nominations were

announced, according to Topsy. The number of mentions peaked that day and the hashtag became popular again Sunday night.

The Sunday night audience of 36.6 million people was down 16 percent from the 43.7 million viewers who watched in 2014, the Nielsen company said. Nielsen had no immediate breakdown of Oscar viewership by ethnicity.

Haywood said he was glad the issue was brought to the fore.

"Change comes very slowly," he said. "I don't expect any sort of radical change to the status quo from one year to the next. My hopes are not too high for anything to happen too quickly. By the same token, it doesn't hurt for people to raise their voices."

NON-NOMINATED MINORITIES=

To some viewers, the Academy Awards made it a specific point to emphasize diversity during the show, from Harris noting Oyelowo in the audience to making Oprah Winfrey a joke target. Nowhere was the effort more evident than in the awards presenters, who included Terrence Howard, Kerry Washington, Viola Davis, Winfrey, Oyelowo, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Idris Elba, Kevin Hart, Eddie Murphy, Lupita Nyong'o, Zoe Saldana and Octavia Spencer. □

Legendary jazz musician Clark Terry dead at 94

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Legendary jazz trumpeter Clark Terry, who mentored Miles Davis and Quincy Jones and played in the orchestras of both Count Basie and Duke Ellington and on "The Tonight Show," has died. He was 94. Terry's wife announced his death on his website late Saturday night. Gwen Terry's statement did not provide further details, and she did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press. "Our beloved Clark Terry has joined the big band in heaven where

he'll be singing and playing with the angels," Gwen Terry wrote on the musician's official Facebook page.

Terry had been in failing health in recent years after suffering from extreme complications of diabetes.



This June 13, 2001, file photo shows Quincy Jones, right, talking with jazz musician Clark Terry at a rehearsal of "Sonic Convergence," in New York.

Associated Press

Terry, who had been living in Arkansas, entered into hospice care earlier this month.

The world has lost one of the greatest trumpeters to ever grace the planet," Quincy Jones wrote on his Facebook page. "Clark Terry was my first trumpet teacher as a teen in Seattle, my idol, and my brother. When he left the Basie and Ellington bands, also two of my idols, to join mine, it was one of the most humbling moments in my life."

Jones honored his mentor by co-producing the documentary "Keep on Keepin' On," which premiered last

September and focused on the relationship between Terry and his young protege, blind jazz pianist Justin Kauflin.

During a career spanning more than seven decades, Terry was a mentor to generations of jazz musicians, starting with Miles Davis, who first met Terry as a teenager growing up in East St. Louis, Illinois, across the river from Terry's hometown.

Born in St. Louis in 1920, Terry displayed his passion for music as a child, fashioning a makeshift trumpet by attaching a funnel to a discarded garden hose with a lead pipe for a mouthpiece. □

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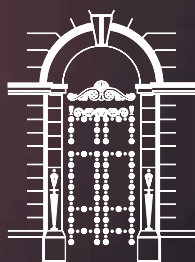
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